Message Text

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EXDIS FROM UNA

FOL RPT NAIROBI 11205 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOGADISCIO, ADDIS ABABA, SANA, JIDDA, KHARTOUM, DJIBOUTI, SECDEF WASHDC, JCS WASHDC, CNO, CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON, CINCPAC HONO HI, USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE, COMIDEASTFOR & CINCPACFLT DTD 28 JUL 78

QUOTE: CONFIDENTIAL

NAIROBI 11205

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: OCLR, US, SO

SUBJECT: NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO MOGADISCIO

REF: STATE 190599

1. CHIEF POLOFF CALLED ON MOFA UNDER SECRETARY MAITHA JULY 28 TO MAKE DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. EMBOFF STRESSED FACT US GOVERNMENT WANTED TELL GOK IN ADVANCE OF PROPOSED VISIT, BECAUSE OF CLOSENESS OR OUR RELATIONSHIP AND CONFIDENTIAL

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HIGH VALUE WE PLACE ON IT.

2. EMBOFF ALSO EMPHASIZED OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF US NAVY MIDDLE EAST FORCE AND VALUE OF ADDITIONAL PORT OF CALL, GIVEN VERY LIMITED PORT AVAILABILITY IN THIS REGION. NOTED ETHIOPIAN REFUSAL OF ACCESS. EMBOFF ADDED WE WOULD INFORM GOK OF EXACT VISIT DATES ONCE FIRMLY SCHEDULED.

- 3. MAITHA ASKED WHETHER INITIATIVE WAS SOMALI OR OURS, TO WHICH EMBOFF REPLIED THAT SDR HAD INDICATED TO US THAT REQUEST FOR VISIT WOULD BE FAVORABLY RECEIVED.
- 4. MAITHA THEN COMMENTED THAT GOK HAD NO PROBLEM WITH US "WARMING UP TO SOMALIA" AS "YOUR TASK IS BIGGER THAN OURS." HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT SAID BARRE "CHANGED FRIENDS LIKE SHOES" AND MAY WISH CULTIVATE US IN EFFORT ALIENATE US FROM KENYA AND ETHIOPIA. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD CERTAINLY REMAIN ALERT TO POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ULTERIOR MOTIVE, STRESSING IMPORTANCE WE PLACED ON FRIENDSHIP WITH KENYA AND REMARKING THAT WE HOPED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA FOLLOWING RECENT ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR CHAPIN.
- 5. MAITHA RECOGNIZED THAT GROWING US RELATIONSHIP MIGHT BE POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON SOMALIA. HE COMMENTED THAT EXPANDING US RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA MIGHT LEAD TO BETTER RELATIONS IN HORN, EXPECIALLY IF US WERE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES, FOR EXAMPLE, PROJECTS ON JUBA AND WEBBI SHIBELI RIVERS.
- 6. IN CONCLUSION, MAITHA THANKED EMBOFF FOR INFORMATION AND SAID HE WOULD PASS IT ON TO HIS SUPERIORS.
- 7. COMMENT: EMBASSY KEPT APPROACH LOW-KEY STRESSING NAVY'S CONFIDENTIAL

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OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND PAUCITY AVAILABLE PORTS.
ALTHOUGH MAITHA'S REACTION SHOWED SOME APPRECIATION OF US
POSITION, WE SUSPECT THERE MAY BE SOME MILD UNHAPPINESS AT
UPPER LEVELS OF GOK. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, EXPECT SERIOUS
REPRECUSSIONS AS LONG AS VISIT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS OPERATIONAL
AND DOES NOT ASSUME PUBLICLY POLITICAL ASPECT.
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UNQUOTE VANCE

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